

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, US, GW

SUBJECT: NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE ON US-GERMAN RELATIONS

1. THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR
THE DEPARTMENT'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING ON FEBRUARY 23 IS
TRANSMITTED FYI ONLY. THE SUBJECT WAS NOT RPT NOT RAISED.

2. BEGIN TEXT: CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE ON US-GERMAN
RELATIONS - Q. IS IT TRUE THAT US AND WEST GERMAN
OFFICIALS HAVE AGREED TO KEEP THEIR DISPUTES ON MACRO-
ECONOMIC POLICY OUT OF THE PUBLIC ARENA AS REPORTED
TODAY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES?

A. IT IS NOT OUR PRACTICE TO DISCUSS THE SUBSTANCE OF
OUR PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE LEADERS OF OTHER
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GOVERNMENTS. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THE US AND THE FRG
HAVE LONG ENGAGED IN VERY CLOSE AND DETAILED BILATERAL
AS WELL AS MULTILATERAL CONSULTATIONS ON A BROAD RANGE
OF ISSUES. THE ECONOMIC, SECURITY AND POLITICAL TIES
WHICH THE US HAS WITH THE FRG CONSTITUTE ONE OF OUR MOST
VITAL AND MOST SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS. WHILE THERE
ARE BOUND TO BE SOME DIFFERENCES OF OPINION, EVEN AMONG

CLOSE FRIENDS AND ALLIES, AND WHICH ARE UNDERSTANDABLY OF INTEREST TO THE PRESS, THE GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP IS IN FACT FUNDAMENTALLY STRONGER TODAY THAN IT HAS EVER BEEN.

Q. ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THERE ARE BASIC DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND GERMANY ON ECONOMIC POLICY AND ALSO IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION?

A. AS I SAID, THERE ARE BOUND TO BE DIFFERENCES OF APPROACH ON VARIOUS ISSUES, BUT WE AND THE GERMANS ARE WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER IN THESE AREAS, OUR BASIC OBJECTIVES ARE THE SAME, AND WE AGREE ON THE NECESSITY TO COOPERATE IN EFFORTS TO REACH THESE SHARED OBJECTIVES.
END TEXT. VANCE

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